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affairs by a system of double canalization—that is, by conducting potable water in closed pipes laid in the canal which carries the main municipal supply. The council of hygiene expresses doubt as to the thoroughness of the reform now under way. The deaths from consumption numbered 1,032 in 1897, against 1,151 in 1896. The deaths from zymotic diseases during the year 1897 were: Typhoid fever, 511; scarlet fever, 14; smallpox, 18; diphtheria, 54; total, 597. The total death rate per 1,000 inhabitants has been as follows:

Year.	Population.	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000.
1888.....	387,994	10,871	28.0
1889.....	394,302	10,819	27.4
1890.....	400,610	12,709	31.7
1891.....	406,919	11,442	28.1
1892.....	413,983	11,567	27.9
1893.....	421,047	12,160	28.8
1894.....	428,111	11,533	26.9
1895.....	435,175	11,630	26.7
1896.....	442,239	11,902	26.9
1897.....	449,303	11,068	24.6

ROBERT P. SKINNER,
Consul.

The SUPERVISING SURGEON-GENERAL,
U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

TURKESTAN.

Plague suspected in Samarcand, Bokhara.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, D. C., October 31, 1898.

SIR: I have the honor to quote for your information the following telegram received on the 28th instant from our embassy at St. Petersburg:

“An epidemic disease resembling bubonic plague officially reported in Government of Samarcand.”

I have the honor to be, sir, your obedient servant,

DAVID J. HILL.

Hon. SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.

WEST INDIES.

Guadeloupe quarantines against New Orleans and Puerto Rico.

GADELOUPE, *October 2, 1898.*

SIR: I have the honor to report that the authorities here have declared a quarantine of nine days, including time of passage, against all vessels from New Orleans and from Puerto Rico ports. Vessels from any of the Lesser Antilles north of Guadeloupe are to be vigorously inspected and not admitted to pratique unless provided with proper health certificates.

I have the honor to be, sir, your obedient servant,

LOUIS H. AYME,
U. S. Consul.

Hon. ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE.